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THE DIAL

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MR. BRYCE ON AMERICA.*

Mr. Bryce's long-expected and eagerly-awaited work on "The American Commonwealth" is found to contain not only law and politics, but sociology and economy,—to run the gamut of investigation of the affairs and interests of this country as they appear to an intelligent Englishman who has come, not to read a nation's life-secrets as he runs, but to study patiently and interpret sympathetically. The reader may miss the glittering maxims of De Tocqueville or the profound political philosophy amid the ponderous German partisanship of Von Holst. But Mr. Bryce has given what has not been given before. The Frenchman came to study, one may say, abstract Democracy, that he might bear its lessons back to France. The German has woven our history into an admirable thesis, and has written a work on constitutional law that instructs while it entertains. But in both works, especially the former, there is an evident failure to comprehend the feelings and

motives of the people that underlie the political phenomena which he has interpreted and arranged so skilfully. The Englishman has come with no preconceived ideas, with no purpose except to seek the truth. A student and writer of history, a teacher of law, an active participant in the politics of Westminster, a man naturally endowed with judgment, sympathy, and moral enthusiasm, has taken upon himself the task of presenting to his countrymen and to ourselves the condition of American politics and the instructive phases of American life. At the very outset the reader will be impressed with the author's fairness, his modesty in not assuming that he can play at will on a nation's stops, his evident desire to state just what he has seen and heard, while giving full credit for assistance and suggestions. And as the work proceeds, one is lost in admiration for the completeness of the grasp and the breadth of information. Comparisons are made with the English and French constitutions, with other federal states, from Achaean and Lycian Leagues to modern Germany and Switzerland.

Mr. Bryce's knowledge of American history has shown him that the Constitution was a growth,—not simply an emanation from the minds of the Fathers at Philadelphia, not the result of a few weeks of discussion, not a fabric reared on *a priori* principles aided by the teachings of Montesquieu and Blackstone. He might well, however, have brought out more clearly this great fact, all-important for the full appreciation of our political and industrial development since 1789. The hundred years that precede the Declaration of Independence are passed over as almost barren, by the reader who looks only for wars and rumors of wars. But the part taken by the colonists in the contests affecting the European balance is interesting chiefly as a phase in the growth of self-government on this continent. The annals that best tell the tale of America's position are those that recount the constant quarrel and counter-quarrel between governor and assembly, the never-flinching obstinacy of the assemblies when they esteem their privileges infringed, their continual assertion of their right to regulate this or that department of domestic interest. Such history is far from barren to him who would see in history the development of civil and political liberty. The list of disheartened governors, of weary and disappointed proprietors, gives us the story of the steady growth of constitutionalism in the American colonies, and when independence was announced, the states felt but a

* THE AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH. By James Bryce, author of "The Holy Roman Empire." In two volumes. Vol. I, The National Government—The State Governments—The Party System; Vol. II, The Party System—Public Opinion—Illustrations and Reflections—Social Institutions. New York: Macmillan & Co.

slight shock disturbing their home affairs. State constitutions were quickly and quietly assumed, courts distributed justice, officers executed the laws and citizens obeyed them. Who would realize that a great revolution was in progress that was splitting asunder the great Anglo-Saxon race? The war was simply the catastrophe in the final scene of the drama of the Revolution. And as the years that had gone had so given form and substance to state constitutions that the transformation has scarcely excited our wonder or attracted our attention, the student of history taking this truly marvellous condition of things as something quite to be expected, so these years in turn gave shape to a national constitution and directed the formation of a national state. The Fathers verily builded better than they knew, because they could not know all the future or appreciate all the past. But using the material of the past, they built for the future. They worked as experience taught, using the material that the tide of history deposited at their feet. The result was a constitution that had scope to contain the future. When we consider that history was the director, it seems scarcely fanciful to state that our Constitution is adapted to facilitate the workings of the great natural laws that are directing man, elevating him, changing him even now from a governed to a self-governing animal.

As the author sees that our Constitution can not be said literally to have been struck off in a given time by the hand of man, that it is a natural outgrowth and not an artificial product, so he recognizes that it is capable of growth and development now; that it has expanded to fit the needs of a mighty people, and is capable of still further shaping itself to the body it protects.

"The Constitution of the United States is so concise and so general in its terms, that even had America been as slowly moving a country as China many questions must have arisen on the interpretation of the fundamental law which would have modified its aspect. But America has been the most swiftly expanding of all countries. Hence the questions that have presented themselves have often related to matters which the framers of the Constitution could not have contemplated. Wiser than Justinian before them or Napoleon after them, they foresaw that their work would need to be elucidated by judicial commentary. But they were far from conjecturing the enormous strain to which some of their expressions would be subjected in the effort to apply them to new facts."

Happily, the Constitution defines, but does not attempt to enumerate; and a judicious interpretation gives opportunity for the development that is needed. Burke has well suggested that Procrustes ought to be the hero of no wise constitution-maker. The doctrine of implied powers was, of course, the salva-

tion of our country as the safety-valve of the Constitution. Mr. Van Buren relates, in his "Political Parties," on the authority of Rufus King, that when Gouverneur Morris was congratulated on the outcome of the Philadelphia convention, he replied that the value of the Constitution depended on the construction given it. And so to the shoulders of Morris is transferred the incubus of originating that malicious and poisonous doctrine of implied powers. John Marshall may have put fully into execution the plot murdering the sleeping security of republicanism, but Hamilton must play Lady Macbeth, while Morris alone takes the role of the wicked and suggesting witches. Our point of view has greatly changed. It seems scarcely credible that anything like a reasonable interpretation was once considered a grievous fault, grievously to be wrought for, and that sensible Federalist construction could be described as "mousing over the words of the Constitution for equivocal expressions, containing a meaning intelligible only to the initiated, and by such methods preparing to spring a trap upon the people."

It is gratifying to see that Mr. Bryce has given full credit to the two Titans of our history. Marshall has of late received the praise he deserves. All agree in admiring his judicial mind, his integrity, and in acknowledging the vast almost incalculable influence of his judgment in determining the definite form taken by our government. But it is well said that Hamilton's splendid gifts have never been recognized by his countrymen, either in his lifetime or since. One may add that they have never fully recognized the far-reaching effect of his wise statesmanship and the impress he has left on our history. An admirer of Hamilton finds it hard to forgive an error in giving the date of his death. His life was all too short. This is one of Mr. Bryce's very few mistakes. But the fault is more than expiated by the beautiful sentences that follow, summing up in a few words the character known well to only too few of his indebted countrymen.

"Equally apt for war and for civil government, with a profundity and amplitude of view rare in practical soldiers or statesmen, he stands in the front rank of a generation never surpassed in history—a generation which includes Burke and Fox and Pitt and Grattan, Stein and Hardenberg and William Von Humboldt, Wellington and Napoleon. Tallyrand, who seems to have felt for him something as near affection as that cold heart could feel, said, after knowing all the famous men of the time, that only Fox and Napoleon were Hamilton's equals, and that he had divined Europe having never seen it."

The place of the Supreme Court in our system is difficult for foreigners to understand. They either assume, as the necessity for a

rigid constitution, a rigid arbiter as well, whose final decision may be sought to annul a law on the ground of repugnance to the Constitution; or they fail to realize that a court whose duty it is to construe the laws has not the authority to enforce its decrees, its functions being judicial merely; or they do not grasp what seems a complicated system in which public and private affairs are inextricably intermingled. It is amusing to see how Dr. Von Holst loses himself in his sinuous attempts to prove that, inasmuch as the Supreme Court had declared the chartering of a national bank within the competency of Congress, President Jackson was precluded by the decision from vetoing a measure for the recharter when it came before him *de novo* for his signature. But Mr. Bryce seems to have solved the problem. The English reader certainly ought to be expected to understand the case after his presentation of it. The Supreme Court, or any other court, decides the point of law involved in the case at bar. If a measure of Congress is involved, it may be decided to be unconstitutional. But such decision does not make the law unconstitutional, or strike it from the statute book. The court, at its very next session, may decide that it was mistaken before, and that the measure was constitutional after all. This may be called a defect in our system, a danger to good order and stability of government. But there is no need of dreaming of possible calamities from a system that has worked with almost absolute perfection. It seems lamentable that Jackson could say, "John Marshall has pronounced his judgment; let him enforce it if he can." The variance in the Legal-tender decisions has appeared to some as the stultification of justice. Mr. Bryce well says that the Supreme Court itself feels the touch of public opinion. "Opinion is stronger in America than anywhere else in the world, and the judges are only men." Yet he concludes that in spite of all this, the court is respected and its judgments revered. Perhaps even Mr. Bryce, who has studied so carefully and sounded popular feeling so well, has not accurately measured the height of the respect or the depth of the reverence.

The contents of these volumes are but faintly shadowed forth in the foregoing remarks, that have been suggested by an examination of their earlier pages. One feels like reciting the names of the different chapters, and then saying to an enquirer, "If you desire to see these subjects discussed, ably, calmly, judiciously, read the book." Especially interesting, however, to the general reader, will be found the chapters on the Party System and the manipulation of party machinery. It strikes us as incongruous, though we may be

used to the fact, that the average American citizen should shout himself hoarse in partisan enthusiasm, when there is no party government except in distribution of the offices, no undivided responsibility for great public measures, no party to initiate, complete, and execute. The Boss has not appealed to Mr. Bryce's admiration; but his schemes and his machinations have been studied with the interest of a naturalist examining with scientific care the manoeuvres of a specimen new to his collection. The nominating convention—that vast pandemonium, the race-track for "dark horses" and "favorite sons"—has, we fear, appeared to our political critic on its humorous side. The gleeful anticipation, the enthusiastic realization, the anxious watching of bulletin and paper, the happy resignation over the last stampede, are pleasurable sensations in the life of a politics-loving people. But withal it is agreeable to find that the corruption of officeholder and politician has not exhibited itself in such woful size as many would insist it possesses. Those who wrap their sacred cloaks about them lest they be contaminated by the politician's touch, and, doing nothing to better matters, spend their time in singing a jeremiad over the degradation of politics, have found no sympathy with Mr. Bryce. He believes that there is honesty even in Congress, and that the majority of men in public life have the best interests of their country and their constituents at heart.

The chapters on Municipal Government will be found only second in value to the admirable essays on State Constitutions and the development of democratic thought exhibited in them. Readers who are interested in education will find the school system discussed, and the universities treated to an accurate examination. "The Churches and the Clergy," "The Position of Women," "American Oratory" are examples of the subjects treated in the last volume, which will be found perhaps the most entertaining to anyone not especially interested in constitutional law or politics.

It is such a graceless task to point out errors in a really magnificent work, that the native hue of the critic's resolution becomes sicklied o'er with admiration, and he is content with hinting that the volumes contain inaccuracies, not errors. It does seem, however, as though it were nearer an error than an inaccuracy to say that all the States, save Louisiana, have taken the English common and statute law of 1776 as their point of departure. But the American people can well be grateful for a criticism with so few errors—a criticism so able, so just, so sympathetic, that it challenges admiration at every turn.

A. C. McLAUGHLIN.

REAL HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE.*

On the industrial side of the record—and that, as the author shows, includes much that is usually viewed as religious and political,—Prof. Thorold Rogers is the first of English historians. He has given the best years of his life, as he tells us in the preface of his new book, “The Economic Interpretation of History,” to the study of social or economical aspects, which historians so strangely neglect; and he has succeeded in tracing the causes of great political events and great social movements to springs which lie too deep for the rapid glance of the ordinary historian, too often writing with the strange hope, avowed by the late J. R. Green, of making history as “interesting as a French novel.” It is one of the vices bred of the making of books, that the writers acquire a false respect for the books that have been written, and think, as historians have always been prone to do, that they have made new literature by making a new statement of the old. But Prof. Rogers has hunted for the facts of the life of the people of England where the people of England themselves left them on record: in deeds, manor rolls, accounts of stewards and bailiffs, assessment rolls, proceedings of courts, old manuscripts, personal and official, preserved in family or public libraries, price lists, old periodicals, pipe rolls, obsolete statutes, Parliament rolls, and the like—and unlike. With prodigious industry and quite as keen an eye to the salient and picturesque as that of the historian who aims to write *à la feuilleton*, Prof. Rogers has ransacked a prodigious mass of this material, so unattractive to the merely literary eye, so rich to the lover of truth, especially new truth. His researches fill in a chapter in the life of the English people, which other historians have taken for granted was forever to be a void. While Hallam and others have lamented that we could not recall the life of even a single mediæval village, Rogers has been opening the mounds of manuscript in which this mediæval life had left its remains. He has found materials in abundance for the reconstruction of the lost annals of the people. “The student of these documents,” he says, “must have a dull imagination indeed if he cannot picture to himself the life of an Englishman in the days of the Plantagenets, from his cradle to his grave.”

Prof. Rogers's method gives him a masterfulness in his field which shows him at many

points at an advantage in comparison with our greatest history-writers. Prof. Freeman is the authority on the history of the Norman Conquest, but Prof. Rogers points out that though Freeman has collected every scrap of history in the common sense of the word, he has made little use of Domesday Book, which contains far more living material than all his other authorities. He speaks with great respect of Hallam, as an “excellent, laborious, and conscientious writer,” but he adds that Hallam took all his information from printed books, and those, too, books written, with one exception, by men who had drawn nothing from original documents. Rogers detects that Macaulay had access to only an imperfect copy of Houghton's Collections,—that in the British Museum; and that he could never have seen the perfect Bodleian copy, which would have been of great value to him. Historians of “the philosophic school,” Rogers looks upon with unconcealed disgust or disdain. The great ones, he declares, can hardly escape the imputation of partisanship; the meaner masters of the craft almost invariably fall into transparent paradox and grotesque exaggeration. He discharges vials—whole vats, rather—of wrath upon Mr. Froude—“the type of the philosophic historian”—for his eulogy of Henry VIII. Froude thinks Henry “the Patriot King”; but Rogers declares—and adduces the evidence to prove it—that there never was a sovereign so outrageously and wantonly extravagant, and sums him up, in short, as “rapacious, lying, extravagant, reckless, and dishonest.” Rogers's own theory of history is tersely put in his remark that any fact is infinitely more important than any use that can be made of it by one writer.

“The Economic Interpretation of History” is not so much a new book as another volume of the book which the author has been writing ever since he began to report to the public, in the “History of Agriculture and Prices,” the results of his unique and invaluable investigations. In his new volume, as in “Six Centuries of Work and Wages,” he confines himself to England and English life,—which, owing to the central importance of England, really gives him some of the most characteristic movements of modern life as his subjects, all treated, not by the barren word-baiting of the ordinary political economy—for which Mr. Rogers, though Professor of Political Economy at Oxford, tells us again and again he has the heartiest contempt,—but as real stories from the lives of the people and actual aspects of their welfare or misery, good or ill fortune. Prof. Rogers lays about him among the political economists with the zeal of one of Robin Hood's men cracking pates with his

*THE ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION OF HISTORY. (Lectures Delivered in Worcester College Hall, Oxford, 1887-8.) By James E. Thorold Rogers, Professor of Political Economy in the University of Oxford, and of Economic Science and Statistics, King's College, London; Author of “Six Centuries of Work and Wages,” “A History of Agriculture and Prices in England,” etc. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

quarter-staff. These economists defend themselves for having no heart, on the ground that they are all head; but they have no heads left when our author is done with them. No one whose scientific and conscientious susceptibilities have been outraged by the false and cruel teachings of this sect of the Pharisees, can fail of the profoundest satisfaction at the thumping blows which Prof. Rogers delivers upon their supposititious craniums. He says, wittily, that these political economists have thoroughly carried out in their own persons the special economical principle which they declare to be at the bottom of all industrial progress—that of obtaining at the least possible cost of labor the largest possible result. They therefore rarely verify their conclusions by the evidence of facts. The result is that “their conclusions have been rejected by workmen, and flouted by statesmen,” of whom Mr. Gladstone, amid universal expressions of satisfaction, pronounced a sentence banishing the economists to Saturn. Prof. Rogers repeatedly quotes this decree of exile, but for some reason forbears to give the credit for it to his great party leader. Mill, the idol of bourgeois Britain, is referred to as the economist who on one page insists on the intrinsic wisdom of free competition, while on another he accords the privilege of protection to young and rising communities. Mill committed himself to the wage-fund theory and the law of diminishing returns, which Rogers dismisses as paradox. The “unearned increment,” Mill’s famous principle, he believes to be no better than a hypothesis, and not a very good one at that. If it ever existed, it is as much vanished as the feudal system is. Mill’s great law that a demand for commodities was not a demand for labor was an error, as Mill himself had to admit in later life. Mill also accepted the gloomy doctrines about the margin of cultivation, the law of diminishing returns, the exhaustion of the coal beds and of fertility, the redundancy of population, which play so great a part in the pseudo science of the English economists. But, as Prof. Rogers points out, no one has ever discovered the margin of cultivation, has ever seen the law of diminishing returns in operation, or has witnessed the exhaustion of fertility; and in one place—though not this time referring to Mill—he exclaims, with irritation, that men will chatter about the margin of cultivation who do not know a field of wheat from a field of barley, of the exhaustion of coal deposits when they do not know their extent, and will rate workmen for their improvidence, their incontinence in foolishly increasing their numbers, without making, in any of the numerous works which they as political economists have written, any attempt to trace the historical causes of this painful spectacle, or to dis-

cover whether persistent wrong-doing by the “classes” has not been the dominant cause of these ills of the “masses.” The famous “rent theory” of Ricardo is “partly a truism, partly a fallacy.” On money and banking, Ricardo’s authority is the highest; but his theory of rent is “exceedingly incorrect, and transcendently mischievous.” Perhaps the most remarkable Nemesis, says our author, which has come upon the speculative economist is that the definition of population by Malthus and the definition of rent by Ricardo have been made the keystone to Mr. Henry George’s theory, in which he demands the confiscation of rent in the interests of population. He says:

“I repudiate Ricardo’s theory, and dissent from Mr. George’s conclusions. . . . The inference I draw from the facts of the case [of rent], and in which I give the historical events which have developed it, is that it would not only be a blunder and an injustice, but an amazing folly, to accept Mr. George’s conclusions.”

Among other questions, burning now, that did not burn in the days of the Plantagenets, is that of the failure of the churches to “draw.” They drew then, because they had not drawn themselves away from the real everyday life of the people into a false position of irreligious one-day-in-the-week-ness. Says Prof. Rogers:

“In all cases, the church was the common hall of the parish, and a fortress in time of danger, occupying the site of the stockade which had been built when the first settlers occupied the ground. . . . Here, too, I believe the common feasts of the parish were held, till such time as the proceeds from the local guild enabled the people to erect their own guild-houses.”

Again:

“The great churches of Norfolk were often pointed to as a proof in an ill-informed age, that population in mediæval England must have been far greater than was generally supposed. But in fact the church of the parish was, as far at least as the nave was concerned, the parish hall, where meetings were held, and often where valuable produce, such as wool and corn, was stored. The idea that a church was a sacred place, in which after Divine service was over no business was to be transacted, is not older than the movement which Laud instigated. In Oxford, St. Mary’s church was, till the time of that prelate, the convocation house of the University, in which academical meetings were held, decrees conferred, lectures given, disputations carried on, and, indeed, all the secular business of the university transacted.”

As to Chivalry, he says:

“Chivalry I fear—and I have read the private accounts of the chevaliers—was the most pretentious of shams.”

A very acute point is made about Galton:

“Occupations are more hereditary than people imagine; and I suspect Mr. Galton in dealing with hereditary genius has confounded hereditary occupation with it, for I should think that the son of a

judge, or the son of a bishop, has more chance of becoming eminent in the law or the church (and Mr. Galton seems to think that success is genius) than the son of another man who had neither influence nor patronage."

One of the might-not-have-beens of literature is that

"the publication of Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations,' as I have recently discovered, was delayed by some negotiations by Pulteney with the East India Directors to get Adam Smith an office in the Bengal Council. They failed, and to their failure we owe the publication of 'The Wealth of Nations,' which would never have seen the light had he obtained the appointment."

A significant opinion is expressed in commenting on the state of labor reform after the abolition in 1825 of the labor laws.

"Thenceforward, the whole subject was remitted to the common law, and to the dangerous interpretations which judges have given of what they are pleased to call 'constructive conspiracy'—the most elastic instrument of tyranny which can be devised."

By the investigations recorded here a strange discrepancy is revealed between the truth of history and the theories of those schools, economic and other, which teach that poverty is one of the from-everlasting-to-everlasting complexions of certain unfortunate classes of the human brotherhood.

"The essence of life in England during the days of the Plantagenets and Tudors was that everyone knew his neighbor, and that everyone was his brother's keeper. My studies lead me to conclude that though there was hardship in this life, the hardship was a common lot, and that there was hope, more hope than superficial historians have conceived possible, and perhaps more variety than there is in the peasant's lot in our time. . . . I believe that under ordinary circumstances the means of life were more abundant during the middle ages than they are under our modern experience. There was, I am convinced, no extreme poverty."

How different are the truths of history, as declared by this eminent investigator, who knows more of the past life of the English people than any other living man—more, probably, than any other man has ever known,—how different are they from the doctrines of despair declaimed from inspired arm-chairs!

Least need be said about that which is the most important part of Prof. Rogers's researches—that concerning the poverty of the farmers and workingmen—the people—and its causes. An increasingly large number of persons, he says, "are under the impression that the greater part of the misery they see is the direct product of laws enacted and maintained in the interest of particular classes. And, on the whole, they are right." By the famous Statute of Labours (5 Eliz., cap. 4), the work-

ingman was handed over to the mercy of his employer at a time when he was utterly incapable of resisting the grossest tyranny. We are shown how the economical history of the poor, as the centuries pass on, is marked by the gradual deprivation of property rights they had in land, commons, game, eight-hour laws, etc. For these divested rights no compensation was given except the concession of famine wages. Wages were fixed by the magistrates. The law gave them the power, and denied the right of appeal. Their object was to get labor at starvation wages; and they did their work. In the middle ages the artisans, through their guilds, bought lands and houses all over England, to insure themselves against poverty, failure of health, old age. The government of Henry VIII. robbed them of this property; "and people wonder," says Rogers, "that the workmen became improvident!" The same kind of pauperization by law was executed upon the farmer as upon the laborer, as shown above. The ruling classes in one case wanted high rents; in the other, low wages; and they got them. No one, according to Prof. Rogers, who knows anything about early economical history can doubt that rent was originally and for centuries a tax imposed by the strong on the weak, in consideration of a real or pretended protection of the tenant. He shows how this rent slid into competition rents, and these into "famine rents," under which the landlord takes all but a bare subsistence, and under which the author declares the farmer has been all but exterminated. It is easy to guess how deep and wide the enquiries have been which are condensed in the statement that "arable rents have risen in the course of the last 275 years in many cases 80 times, while the price of wheat has risen 8 times."

With such facts as these—whole chapters of them—at his command, what wonder that a warning tone almost as stern as that of the Hebrew prophets runs all through these pages? Nothing probably can reach the ears or hearts of the unfortunate railroad kings, merchant princes, and organizers of Trusts, and their still more unfortunate satellites who are leading in America a madder race for mere wealth than was ever seen except in rotten Rome. But no less interested reader can fail to be struck by the solemn identity of the alarm sounded by Prof. Rogers, and by Ruskin, Carlyle, Mazzini, Emerson. Prof. Rogers comes, through the carefullest study ever made of the facts of modern life—for English life is the heart of modern life,—to the same eloquent revolt against social injustice that the seers and prophets have been sounding from their watch-towers these many years.

HENRY D. LLOYD.

A HISTORY OF FRENCH PAINTING.*

The design of Mrs. Stranahan, in her "History of French Painting,"—which is, briefly, to give adequate and accurate information on French Painting to students beginning their art course,—has been honestly and thoroughly accomplished. The author is right in her opinion that the elements of the subject are chiefly wanted; and these she has presented with a fulness and discrimination which deserve unhesitating praise. I cannot better indicate the general features of her valuable volume than to quote her own language in regard to it:

"The work gives elementary facts concerning foundations and regulations by the government; the effects of its decrees; its direction, suppression, encouragement; the establishment, growth, and varying attitude towards art, of the Academy of Painting and the elements of its powers; the significance of the various classes of medals, honors, and prizes;—a knowledge which students often grope after in vain, and finish by continuing to read of, but with vague notions of their character and importance."

That Mrs. Stranahan has justified her purpose in this much-needed performance, has already been suggested. She has investigated with scrupulous minuteness the whole field of French Painting, has noted the variations and characteristics of the art of four centuries, and has presented such a classification and exposition of well-mastered material as render the large subject under survey very attractive and instructive. Her authorities—which embrace more than two hundred titles, including the names of the most eminent critics and authentic historical data,—have enabled her to reach principles and trace influences which are of great value to those who desire clear views and adequate facts for their own independent conclusions.

Following the accomplished author, we have at first a view of the artistic tendencies of the French people and of the situation at the close of the fifteenth century. In the sixteenth century the government initiated a decided interest in the promotion of art, which, with different phases of support and patronage, never ceased to exist. Italian influence had now reached its height, and, for the first time, native talent began vigorously to exert itself, though still colored and controlled greatly by the art of Italy. During the reign of Francis I., who was a liberal patron of art, the School of Fontainebleau was established, and this splendor-loving monarch formed the nucleus of a national gallery which became eventually

the magnificent Museum of the Louvre. At his invitation Leonardo da Vinci visited France, where he produced some noble work. The School at Fontainebleau was composed entirely of foreign artists. It is true, however, that in the general revivification of ideas in this stirring period, native art gradually gained a firm foothold in France.

The great artistic event of the seventeenth century was the founding of the Academy of Painting and Sculpture in 1648. The royal collection of Francis had dwindled, from various causes, to one hundred pictures; Louis XIV. increased it during his reign to 2,403. A passion for art was strongly stimulated during this period, and many fine galleries were formed by persons of wealth and distinction. All departments of art, however, were affected by the conventional grandeur of the times. The conspicuous artists of this century were Vouet, Nicholas Poussin, Claude Lorrain, and the historical painters Lebrun, Lesueur, Bourdon, Mignard, Dufresnoy, and Rigaud. The author's account of the Academy, its rules, government, management, principal members, and the influences and changes that marked its history, is replete with interest and instruction.

The eighteenth century was an era of the emancipation of art from conventional execution, and its characteristic traits date from 1715. Its art impressively represents the social and political changes and conspicuous features of the times. Idealized sensuality was now the representative art; and three years after the death of Louis XV. this reached its utmost limit of discreditable license, and a wholesome reaction set in. Picture galleries continued to increase, great additions were made to the royal collections, simple realistic genre was gaining recognition, and in 1775 the Salons began their splendid career—the first called the Salon Carré. The chapter covering this century relates the various modifications of art organizations through the altered conditions of society and the government, the new management of the Academy, the establishment of a jury for the admission of pictures, the practice of modern criticism, the institution of medals, the opening of a National Museum free to all visitors, the placing of the Prix de Rome on a firmer and more satisfactory basis, and the tendencies which so greatly shaped the art of the following period. Among the most eminent artists whose works are described are Watteau, Boucher, Chardin, Greuze, and Vien.

Much the larger part of Mrs. Stranahan's volume—356 out of 480 pages—is devoted to French Painting of the nineteenth century, which is considered under three periods:—the first, the Period of Classicism, extending to 1824; the second, that of Romanticism, from its definite recognition in 1824 to the revolt of

*A HISTORY OF FRENCH PAINTING, from its earliest to its latest practice. Including an Account of the French Academy of Painting, its Salons, Schools of Instruction, and Regulations. By C. H. Stranahan. With Reproductions of Sixteen representative Paintings. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

artists in 1848; the third period, that of Individuality—the results of Romanticism—from the Salon of 1848 to the present. Of course, the author does not pretend that this classification can be strictly maintained, as the respective schools of art naturally tend to modify one another. In this survey the nature and sources of Classicism, of which David was the most conspicuous example, are described; the influences on art of the administration of Napoleon I., Louis XVIII., and Charles X. are noted; the naturalism of Carl and Horace Vernet, the new development by Géricault, and landscape under Classicism, and the transition to Romanticism, are clearly traced. The second period, that of Romanticism, embraces an account of the art productions, institutions, and collections under Louis Philippe, and a classification of the Romantic and the Naturalistic Schools—the latter being subdivided into the Oriental, of which Descamps was leader; Landscape, represented by Paul Huet, who had freed landscape art from an academic severity and of which Corot and Rousseau were illustrious examples; and Landscape with Animals, represented by Troyon and other eminent names. The third period, that of Individuality, dates from the Salon of 1848. Here the author portrays the rich results of Romanticism and whatever favoring influences promoted charming art under Napoleon III. Here, again, with admirable judgment she delineates the leading artists and their respective fields of work and accomplishments under the Empire and the Republic, with a learned pen. First come the semi-classic or historic artists, represented by Flandrin; next, Landscape with Animals, of which Rosa Bonheur is the characteristic painter; then follow in their order the Orientalists, to which group belong Fromentin, Gerome, Regnault, and other favorite artists; the Neo-Greeks, like Hamon and Picou; the Genre (historic) painters led by Meissonier; Rustic genre, or Landscape with Figures, brilliant with the genius of Millet, Brian, Courbet, and Jules Breton; Sympathetic genre, illustrated by Edouard; Painters of Figures in elevated style distinguished by such names as Cabanel, Bouguereau, Henner, and Bonnet; Military Painters, like Detaille and de Neuville; Landscape and Marine, Harpignies and Gabriel Isabey; Still-life, Desgoffe; and the School of the Impressionists, of which Bastien-Lepage is the acknowledged master.

The author has not failed to note, in these chapters on the nineteenth century, the influences that contributed to modify and direct the modern art of France, the origin of the characteristic schools, the wonderful changes in the popularity of individual artists, the various canons of criticism in vogue, the facilities of art instruction, and the stimulants

to the art production of the period. Lists of all the artists of distinction and their works and honors are inserted in their proper places, and thus one can easily trace any picture of importance to its present owner or locality. What strikes anyone at all familiar with the subject is the discrimination shown in the allotment of space according to the value of the theme. An exception to this must be made in the case of Doré, the illustrator, who receives far more attention than is due to his achievements as a representative of French painting. Mrs. Stranahan has, of course, availed herself of the best contemporary criticism, but the manner in which she has compressed her knowledge and the scientific method of her treatment are admirable.

It is only just that some specimens of the author's composition should appear in a fair review of her volume; and, therefore, a few examples are presented—as many as space allows—beginning with Claude.

"Claude sought the conventional elegance of the classic landscape, and refined upon his studies of nature until his works sometimes in no wise resemble the natural reality, as Goethe noted in his eulogy of them. Like Poussin, he had, indeed, the feeling caught from Poussin's advice that the dignity of classic structure was necessary to his scene. At the same time study led him, more profoundly than any other master, to penetrate the secrets of nature. His three great charms are: The unlimited space expressed in his pictures, effected by the use of soft vapor to define separate distances and equalled, perhaps, only by Corot; the effects of air shown in veiling and subduing outlines and tints, as well as in causing the foliage to quiver, light clouds to sweep across the sky, and water to ripple; and the brilliant effects of light on a charming coloring. But, as far as the eye may wander away into space in Claude's pictures, it is always able to retrace its wanderings to a definite and beautiful foreground where all is repose and serenity, crowned with some one of the varied mysteries of light, the ethereal drapery of aerial perspective, or the more tangible though still dreamy mist of sunrise or sunset. He painted nature's worship."

Of Watteau, she says:

"Watteau was the leading painter of the holiday merriment and full-dress flirtation of the age; the caprices and costumes of its society-scenes were his subject, love his theme, and he the lover's poet. . . . He had a grace wholly his own: it was not that of the antique, plastic and material; it was the airy nothing which gives to woman her coquetry and attraction, a charm far above that of physical beauty. . . . His excellence consists in a delicate, light, fresh, flowing touch; sprightly imagination; a charm of color acquired from Rubens; a perception and clear expression of shades of character evincing knowledge of the precise truth of each gesture; a wide and varied range, to which he added the charm of elegance and grace learned from everyday French life."

Here is a taste of her delineation of Corot:

"His sketchiness of treatment arose from knowledge rather than from ignorance, the comprehensive

knowledge that, choosing from all, gives the best, that from the mass, selects the significant.

In his treatment, that of so controlling the representation of a scene as to convey its impression, he forms, with Claude Lorrain and Theodore Rousseau, the triumvirate head of landscape painting in France.

In painting what he saw, he reproduced a portion of the landscape that comes within the scope of vision, focussed the escape of the view, so to speak, its passing away into the horizon, and painted this with a precision that leads the eye through this path away to where the earth and heaven meet. All else he sacrifices, leaves all outside of this, indefinite; the blades of grass confused, the foliage, the outline of the trees even undefined. This, it will be seen, is the perpetuating the one view that the act of looking at a landscape gives. But besides, he expresses what he feels in viewing it. Atmosphere is the essential factor in his composition. It serves to mould, illumine, modify all the features of the scene.

He surpasses all others in the ability to indicate the presence of water without making it seen; throughout, subtleties of tone rather than realities of form and color, characterize his works."

This is a bit about Millet:

"These words, 'This is true humanity and great poetry,' furnish the interpretation of Millet's truer work. But this spiritual motive he clothed in a superb technique; he gave it appropriate color, rich even while subdued; he drew his figures with a masterly, authoritative stroke; with full knowledge of perspective, he placed them in a landscape, of which they became a part, and surrounded them with an atmosphere that could be breathed. And besides painting the air, reproducing the light, and 'seeing the invisible,' he caught expression in its greatest power; permeated with the sentiment of nature, he united nature and humanity in perhaps closer combination than has ever been witnessed elsewhere. Thus in his 'Sower,' of the given elements, a bare ploughed field and a simple peasant, is made an effective poem, of which the charm, though deeply felt, is difficult of analysis. In the rhythmic swing of arm and gait, Millet has expressed the consciousness, on the part of the sower, of the service rendered; he has made the sky behind this masterful figure, and the twilight air around him, full of, besides all the beauty of their truth, suggestions of the weariness of long continued but still energetic labor."

Such writing has at least the merit of graphic and truthful characterization, and there are scores of passages as expressive. Whatever may be said about the defects of the author's style,—and it is to be regretted that it is not generally more felicitous,—the sympathetic reader becomes so impressed with her solid qualities that he does not mind, in some instances, its lack of limpidity and grace. It has dignity, condensation, and vitality. The volume is handsomely printed on thick paper and contains sixteen illustrations and a full index. We lay it down with the feeling that this is honest and intelligent work, rightly conceived, sincerely executed, and certain to be useful.

HORATIO N. POWERS.

WEATHER LORE.*

General Greely's treatise on "American Weather" contains a large amount of well arranged and condensed information upon a subject which is upon every tongue. But no one should mistake the import of the book; it is only historic, not prophetic. The author tells what he knows; he does not explain to his readers how they may vaticinate, except in a very humble and moderate way.

The first third of the book is occupied with accounts of the varied forms of apparatus used in observing the phenomena of the atmosphere. They indicate variations in pressure, temperature, radiation, humidity, evaporation, precipitation, and the force and direction of the winds. All these instruments are most skillfully made and are tested to the utmost degree of accuracy. A thermometer is no longer merely a grumbler's joy,—it is responsive to the subtlest influences of changing temperatures, and may be made to record its experiences of the silent hours of the night, or of the profoundest depths of the sea. The evolution of all meteorological instruments tends to the self-recording condition, and some have been contrived to put down their own observations in the most satisfactory manner. Such are those for recording heat and cold, air pressure, and the velocity of the wind.

For about fifty years meteorological observations have been taken in America with some degree of system, first by private observers, who were at one time subsidiary to the Smithsonian Institution, and for many years by the officers of the Signal Service, of which General Greely is now chief. The bulk of the recorded material has become enormous. Some of it is doubtless fragmentary; much is inexact; and much has never been collated and discussed, and is not likely to be. It seems a pity that so much earnestness and fidelity and self-denial should be suffered to go to waste. If anyone imagines that there is no self-denial in this matter, let him undertake to keep faithful records of a set of meteorological instruments five or even three times daily, and presently discover his mistake. The regularly recurring moments of observation will come to haunt him like a Nemesis.

The discussion of such observations, when they have been derived from large areas of the earth's surface—as from the North American continent, or even from the United States,—serves two distinct purposes. The first purpose is the recognition of the conditions existing in all parts of the broad areas from

* AMERICAN WEATHER. A Popular Exposition of the Phenomena of the Weather. Including chapters on Hot and Cold Waves, Blizzards, Hailstorms, and Tornadoes, etc. By Gen. A. W. Greely, Chief Signal Officer, U.S.A. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

which reports are drawn, at, or shortly before, a concerted time, including temperature, pressure, humidity, precipitation of moisture, and the force and direction of the winds. Science and experience combine to indicate, with some degree of probability, what will be the conditions of the weather for a brief time to follow. Whether we treat these forecasts with respect or with contumely, whether we call them predictions or guesses, the fact remains that a very large percentage of those made are proved true by the sequence of events. That all should be confirmed is more than could reasonably be expected. The slightest reflection will show that local and minor causes constantly modify, and occasionally overcome, the broader and usually controlling influences. But if only half of the danger signals displayed in our lake and seaboard ports are found to be confirmed, even then all are worth obeying. The property protected by this means is worth many times the cost of the entire system, while the saving of life is not to be valued in coin of the republic. If the agricultural communities could be as easily advised, particularly as to the earlier and later frosts,—or, rather, if when advised it were as easy to take crops in out of the cold as it is to keep shipping in port and out of the reach of the storm,—interests of yet greater magnitude could be served. It does not appear how the farmers of Minnesota could have saved their wheat in the last summer, even if they had known, say a week beforehand, that the temperature was about to fall below the point of frost.

The forecasting phase of practical meteorology is General Greely's daily occupation. Its results are in all the morning papers, and should not be expected to appear in this book.

The second purpose is that to which the largest part of the volume is given. It consists in working out the generalizations, and expressing the conditions, by which in the large way the climate of the United States may be described. While the first part is such as should be expected in any late treatise on the appliances for meteorological work, the second part, that on which the writer's strength has been put, shows an immense labor in selecting, classifying and condensing the enormous mass of material at hand. Each kind of phenomena, as indicated by the barometer, the thermometer, or the rain-gauge, is discussed separately. Maps of the continent are often given, on which are drawn curves indicating the various conditions in different regions and at different seasons. The highest, the lowest, the average, the distribution, of rainfall, of cloudiness, of snow, of wind, of thunder and lightning, of blizzards, cyclones, etc., etc., are so given as to make

the work a thesaurus of this sort of information.

As to accuracy and reliability, the layman—which word applies to everybody outside the Signal Office—must admit them with unquestioning faith. The latter part of the book is so filled with facts and figures, and they are of such a character, that another Greely, in command of another Signal Office, would find it easier to write a new book than to verify the statements of this. Yet because of the multitude of facts their explanations are somewhat obscured. The causes of weather changes are, indeed, varied and occult, and cannot be condensed into a few paragraphs. In a large way, subject to innumerable modifications, they may be generalized.

Let us strike the sequences of phenomena at the instant when the barometric pressure is low over an area of considerable breadth, say some hundreds of miles. The central part of this area, where the pressure is lowest, is surrounded by a belt where the pressure is not so low; this by another of higher pressure, and so following. This condition will be shown by a series of curves about the central area, each curve indicating the line of a given pressure, called an *isobar* (equal pressure). If these conditions exist, unmodified by any other causes, over a level area, the isobars will be a series of concentric circles. The mass of air will be not unlike a basin hollowed out in the centre, heaped at the sides. If the area is small and the isobars are thickly placed, the slope of the surface from centre outward will be relatively steeper than if the area is large and the isobars are remote from each other. As the body of air does not rest on a level surface the isobars are not simple and circular, but are waved, conforming in some degree to the variable contour of the mountains and valleys. But all fluids, including air, tend to equilibrium; and from all directions, toward and into this area of low barometer, the air moves, the winds blow. If the isobars are near and the gradient steep, the motion of the winds will be swift and the force great. But the tendency of all winds in the northern hemisphere is toward the left,—that is, opposite to the motion of the hands of a watch; and there is set up in the supposed region a central-seeking and spiral movement of the air. There is also a constant and general movement of the air of the north temperate zone towards the northeast, always observable in the upper currents. It is the return current from the hot central zone, modified by the rotation of the earth. This current is joined by the spirally blowing winds, and their combined forces produce a strong and swift movement.

Now we have our large area of low pressure, perhaps hundreds of miles broad, moving gradually or swiftly towards the east, and by

the configuration of the land surface usually drifted toward the northeast. This is a storm-area. Its generally progressive movement must not be confounded with the movements of the winds within it, any more than the progressive motion of a carriage wheel should be confounded with the whirling motions of points on its spokes or felloes. As the air from without comes into this area of low pressure it expands by reason of its internal forces; it is cooled by its expansion; its capacity for moisture is diminished and precipitation occurs until the condition of equilibrium between temperature and moisture is restored. The front of the storm-area, as it moves on its way, will usually be full of rain or snow. In the rear follows clearing weather. If the storm-area passes New England, the centre being over the sea, the rainy winds will blow from the northeast, and the clearing winds will back round into the west and north. If the storm-area passes over the prairie states to the north of a given place, the front of the storm will show at that point southerly and rainy winds, and as the storm passes the winds will haul into the northwest through the southwest and west. This is everyday experience. What follows?

The winds which have blown from all quarters, to equilibrate the area of low pressure, do not stop when equilibrium is reached, but continue until an area of high pressure is produced. The wave becomes not one of depression, but one of elevation. The air is condensed; the temperature rises because less heat is occupied in the work of expansion. The air has therefore a larger capacity for taking moisture into itself without showing its presence in cloud, mist, or precipitation. We have clear and fine weather. As this movement of the air did not cease when the area of low pressure was satisfied, but continued until an area of high pressure was established, so it develops behind it another area of low pressure, and the whole series of phenomena is repeated. Other causes, perhaps of slight value, will determine the new place of beginning. The storm-area, developed as we have described, is said to be cyclonic; that is, the combined effect of the aerial forces brings the wind currents into circular or cyclonic paths, usually so broad that their curved movements could not be known except as reports from large areas are collated. The destroying and deadly cloud-funnel is not a cyclone.

The areas of high pressure which follow those of low pressure are properly called anticyclones. The air is heaped in the central parts of such areas. The movements of air will be from the centre outwards. The currents will be distributed, not concentrated, and as a rule they will be less vigorous, rather than more intense. Why should they be so

frequently accompanied by the great depression of temperature, known as the cold wave? We have shown that the area of high pressure should be free from cloud or mist. But the clouds are nature's blankets for a freezing world. Through the clear and cloudless air radiation from the earth's surface goes out into the empty space, and the temperature of the ground and of the air above it sinks rapidly and severely. If the air has already a full supply of moisture, there may be a fall of rain or snow, in which case the temperature rises. If the air has previously lost its moisture while passing over mountain ranges or through cyclonic areas, then no such relief comes, and cold, often intense and bitter, follows.

Such are the reasons for some of the more notable phenomena of American weather.

SELIM H. PEABODY.

THE HISTORY OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.*

The sumptuous quarto volume on "Musical Instruments and their Homes," in the preparation of which printers, binders, and engravers seem to have united to produce as elegant a work as was possible, is at once a tribute of loving domestic affection and a treatise of rare value to the musical student and connoisseur. Primarily, it is a catalogue of the musical instruments at the country home of Mr. John Crosby Brown, at Orange, N. J. The work was commenced by Mrs. Mary E. Brown, and finished by her son, Mr. William Adams Brown, who also made the pen-and-ink sketches and charming initial designs. The dedication reads:

"To the one who has not only given the true keynote to our home, but whose firm yet gentle touch has resolved all its transient discords into harmony, this book is affectionately dedicated by his wife and eldest son."

It hardly needed this dedication to impress the reader that this magnificent volume was truly a labor of love. It bears the impress, on every page, of loving devotion, and rarely has a more beautiful tribute been paid to a father by mother and son, working in harmonious and felicitous collaboration.

Turning from the personal characteristics of the work, it has unique and striking features which will commend it as a most important contribution to musical literature. Unquestionably its first effect will be to surprise the reader that so large and valuable a collection of musical instruments is to be found in private hands in this country. In-

* MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND THEIR HOMES. By Mary E. Brown and Wm. Adams Brown. 270 Illustrations in Pen and Ink by Wm. Adams Brown. The whole forming a Complete Catalogue of the Collection of Musical Instruments now in the Possession of Mrs. J. Crosby Brown. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.

deed, it easily takes rank with the great public collections, both of this country and Europe. There are collections at Berlin, Paris, and Vienna, but none finer than this. London has large collections at the British Museum and East India House also; but the only one in England which can rival this one is that at the South Kensington Museum, which has for its nucleus M. Louis Clapisson's collection, and which has been so intelligently and interestingly catalogued by Mr. Carl Engel, in a treatise which, however, by the side of this superb volume, is hardly beyond the dimensions of a primer. In our own country there are but three other collections which can rank with this, the first at the National Museum in Washington; the second, at the National Conservatory of Music in Boston, and the third, the Drexel collection in the Metropolitan Museum in New York, left to it by the will of the Philadelphia banker who was an ardent collector not only of instruments but also of musical literature and scores. The exhaustive character of Mrs. Brown's work may be inferred from its chapter headings, which are as follows: 1, Chinese Music; 2, Chinese Musical Instruments; 3, Japanese Music; 4, Musical Instruments of Japan; 5, Musical Instruments of Corea; 6, Hindoo Music; 7, Instruments of India; 8 and 9, the Music and Musical Instruments of Siam and Burmah; 10 and 11, the Music of Arabia, Syria and North Africa; 12 and 13, the Music and Instruments of Persia and Turkey; 14 and 15, the Music of Africa; 16 and 17, the Music and Instruments of the North American Indians; and 18, the Music and Instruments of Central and South America and Oceanica.

Though the work makes no pretensions to being an essay on music, its wide scope is shown by the author's research among the authorities—the list of which occupies four of these large quarto pages and includes standard works in various languages—the painstaking descriptions of the various instruments, with accompanying monographs upon the characteristics of national music so far as it illustrates the scope of the instruments themselves, and the pen-and-ink drawings, 270 in number, which are interwoven in the text and reproduced in very artistic style. The descriptive text itself is copied from pen-and-ink, while the short treatises are in Roman—a division which gives a unique charm to the book.

As will be seen from the list of contents, the most of the volume is devoted to Oriental musical instruments of the modern time, and in this department is very rich. Though it contains no mention of the ancient instruments of the Hebrews, Egyptians, Greeks, or Romans, yet it easily carries the reader back to antiquity, for it deals with Oriental and

savage races whose conservatism in music is as staunch as the Pyramids themselves, and whose handicraft has made no advance in thousands of years. The Ceylon ravanastron, invented fifty centuries ago, and the "chang," or Persian harp, twenty centuries old, from which by numerous and ingenious evolutions the western world has arrived at the violin and piano, are instances of this conservatism. They still hold their place in Asia, and are likely to, until Western railroads, vessels, and armies prepare the way for the advance of Western civilization. The chapters upon savage music are peculiarly interesting, and might be profitably consulted by the student in connection with such a work, for instance, as Engel's "Study of National Music"; and the chapters upon the instruments of our own Indian races and the Alaskans are full of rare and valuable information.

To recapitulate the contents of the volume, however, would require more space than is at our disposal. It is more to the purpose to indicate to the connoisseur that his library, even though it may contain Engel's work, and that luxurious volume recently issued by Hipkin, which exceeds the present one only in the quality of its illustrations, will still be incomplete without Mrs. Brown's beautiful and artistic treatise. In these days of money-getting and money-grubbing for money's sake, it is refreshing to find now and then a case where money has been usefully employed and has given to the world, at the cost of much mental labor also, a work of great value, filled with important facts in the history of the most graceful and beautiful of all the arts, and adding to the world's general information. In such hands as those of Mrs. Brown and her son, collection is not a mere mania without intelligence or purpose, a fad of ephemeral existence, or an ignorant ostentation, but a work pursued with intelligent purpose and then given to the world in most attractive form, to add to its stock of information on a given subject. Wealth thus applied is a benefaction to the student. It is fortunate that in this case, taste, knowledge, and wealth have gone hand in hand, and that the mechanics of book-making have wrought their noblest to give their purpose perfect and sumptuous shape.

GEORGE P. UPTON.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

THE Letters of Dorothy Osborne to Sir William Temple form a pleasing and not unimportant addition to epistolary literature. Readers will recall Macaulay's admiring tribute to Dorothy's good qualities, in his review of Courtenay's life of Temple. She was the daughter of Sir Peter Osborne, a royalist of determined "malignancy," whose stub-

born defence, in 1643, of Castle Cornet against the Parliamentarians won for him some distinction. Temple met with Dorothy Osborne shortly after leaving the university, and the young people seem to have at once formed a mutual attachment. Their matrimonial plans were not, however, looked upon with favor by their friends. Temple's father had in view for him a wealthier alliance; while the Osbornes were dissatisfied, not only with the youthful suitor's lack of employment, but with the seeming lukewarmness of his religious and political convictions. Dorothy's letters tell the story of this old-time courtship from its commencement to its happy termination, and reveal to us the singularly noble and attractive personality of Lady Temple. We know that Sir William Temple became the most cautious of statesmen; that he seldom sought political distinction save at those happy conjunctures when, the rival parties happening to be in accord, his activity did not involve the risks of partisanship; but whatever he may have been as a politician, the tone of Dorothy's letters to him leaves no doubt that he was an ardent lover. The letters are written in a very agreeable style, and show the courtly negotiator of the "Triple Alliance" in a pleasanter light than that in which we have heretofore seen him. Dorothy wrote, for the most part, from her father's country seat of "Chicksands," whither the family retired at the close of the civil war; and her letters afford a fair idea of English country life at that period. Certainly it is no slight privilege to look over the shoulder of this seventeenth century beauty (Dorothy had as many suitors as Penelope herself), as she writes so confidentially to her lover; and we cannot but wonder what she herself would have thought had she foreseen that her tender rose-scented missives were destined to furnish entertainment centuries after she and her lover were dust. Besides the good literary quality of the letters, they have the merit of putting us on familiar terms with those who figure in their pages. The historical Sir William Temple, the periwigged diplomatist, the sedate amateur-gardener of Sheen, is a far more impalpable personage, for instance, than Sir William the lover obediently trotting to "the great shop above, 'The Flower Pott,'" to procure a "quart of Orange-flower water" for his lady-love. The editor of the letters, Mr. Edward Abbott Parry, has done his work thoroughly—unnecessarily so, perhaps, as concerns the majority of readers, who will care little for the mass of personal detail supplied in the notes. The volume is furnished with portraits, after the originals by Lely, of Sir William and Lady Temple, and is very tastefully gotten up by its publishers (Dodd, Mead & Co.)

MR. BRANDER MATTHEWS, in his preface to "Pen and Ink" (Longmans, Green & Co.)—a collection of essays, chiefly re-prints, "on subjects of more or less importance,"—humorously declares it to be "the most interesting, the most entertaining, the most instructive book of the decade." While hardly prepared to vouch for the entire accuracy of this estimate, we may safely admit that the volume is an unusually bright, instructive, and readable one. Indeed, we may go still further, and say that there is not a dull page in it—which implies that we have read the volume through. This inference is noted as showing that certain dark hints by the author, in "The True Theory of the Preface"—one of his best papers—have not fallen unheeded. In this

essay Mr. Matthew deals quite sharply with the writers of apologetic prefaces, holding them largely responsible for their own literary mishaps. On the hypothesis that the reviewer seldom gets beyond the introduction, and, to save himself trouble, is ready to take the writer at his own valuation, the latter is advised to sound his own trumpet pretty loudly. The preface, Mr. Matthews holds, being "intended solely for the critic," should be devoted to pointing out the merits of the work, calling attention "modestly but firmly" to the special advantages enjoyed by the author, quoting a few words of high praise once addressed "to him by a great man," etc., etc. Mr. Matthews's advice is good—if the critic happen to be a very good-natured one; such a critic, for instance, as Lamb's friend, George Dyer, to whom a book was, *per se*, a thing to be respected, and to whom "all poems were good poems, and all men fine geniuses." But with the truculent critic of the "Mr. Bludyer" stamp, the self-laudatory preface-maker must surely come to grief. Perhaps the best paper in this collection is that entitled "The Ethics of Plagiarism," a subject well adapted to display the author's shrewd wit and ingenuity. Mr. Matthews by no means seeks to palliate the sin of plagiarism, but reads a valuable lesson to the literary detective who is forever crying "Stop thief!" The following good illustration of the rights of the literary borrower may be quoted: "Those from whom they [Dumas, Sardou, and Poe] borrowed have no more right to claim the resulting works than has the spectator who lends a coin to a conjurer a right to consider himself a partner in the ingenious trick the conjurer performs with it." To this the author might have added that the conjurer has no right to walk off with the coin and spend it. The essence of plagiarism lies in the felonious intent,—the imputing to oneself merit rightly due to another. To borrow with the intention of fairly using the thing borrowed as raw material is a very mild and pardonable form of plagiarism; while the worst of all plagiarists is he who—like the luckless Robert Montgomery—not only steals his literary wares, but reproduces them "in a damaged condition." Mr. Matthews has the best gift of the popular essayist—that of seriously appealing to the taste and judgment of the reader, while seemingly bent only on entertaining him.

PROBABLY to ninety-nine readers out of every hundred, Richard Jefferies, novelist, is an unknown quantity; and the title of Mr. Besant's new book, "The Eulogy of Richard Jefferies," will cause that proportion of readers to ask, Who is he? Premising that the volume in hand is a very readable one, and that it supplies full information of Jefferies and his works, we will devote a brief space to answering, with Mr. Besant's aid, this natural question. Richard Jefferies was an author—he died in 1886—whose success is to be measured by the merit of his works, rather than by the fame or money they brought him. The morbidly imaginative boy, bred in the seclusion of a Wiltshire farm, intent upon the secrets of meadow, wood, and stream, and shrinking from the rude society of boys of his own age, was the father of the man—shy, proud, impractical, unsuccessful. Even Jefferies's eulogist confesses that his hero was not a "clubbable" man. Jefferies began life as a journalist, and first became known through a series of letters on agriculture which attracted the notice of thinking men

throughout England. The avenue to prosperity thus thrown open to him he neglected to follow, believing that his true calling was that of the novelist. And herein, properly speaking, he was right—although success, as the world goes, was not for him. Jefferies's first novels—artificial, false, treating of a phase of life of which he knew nothing—were wretched failures. Not until after years of experiment and blind groping, did he learn the secret of his power of noting and describing rural phenomena. Throughout his pages there runs a thread of reflection, often light and playful, and at times of almost Wordsworthian depth and earnestness. Jefferies not only described, but he tried with all his soul to interpret. As we have said, he was never a "successful" man. His books, though, in their way, of superlative merit, were not widely salable, and his last years were spent in sickness and poverty. The following quotation from his last article—written shortly before he died—tells the pathetic story of his end. Let the reader reflect that for six long years this man, who had literally lived with nature out-of-doors, had been the prisoner of disease. "I wonder to myself," he wrote, "how they can all get on without me; how they manage, bird and flower, without me, to keep the calendar for them. For I noted it so carefully and lovingly day by day." At the very last his thoughts reverted to the fields and flowers, and the warm sunshine. In reading the pathetic story of his death, one recalls Browning's lines on the dying man who

"—sate up suddenly, and with natural voice
Said, that in spite of thick air and closed doors
God told him it was June; and he knew well,
Without such telling, harebells grew in June;
And all that kings could ever give or take
Would not be precious as those blooms to him."

Two books which came from the press just before the Presidential election may be considered as campaign documents whose value is not confined to a single campaign. Both have for their contention that the fathers of the Republic created "a government of States, by States, for States," and that it has since become "a government of numbers, by numbers, for numbers." A. W. Clason, in his "Seven Conventions" (Appleton), has given in seven chapters condensed reports of the Federal Convention—the ratifying conventions of Massachusetts, Virginia, New York, and South Carolina, the non-ratifying convention of North Carolina, and of the conventions of Charleston and Baltimore in 1860. In a preliminary chapter, and in his comments upon the Federal Convention, he forcibly dwells upon the contract basis of our government as founded in 1789, and upon the entrance of force as necessitating a new conception of the nature of the government henceforward. He also calls attention to the view held by the founders of the Union in 1776 as to the independent status of the parties to the Declaration of Independence. As an additional chapter on our government from the standpoint of the makers of it, his book is interesting and profitable reading.—"The Centennial of a Revolution; by a Revolutionist" (Putnam) is not intended "for the general," who we fear will miss the point of its delicate satire. Taking an article in the "Political Science Quarterly," entitled "The American Commonwealth," as its point of departure, it assails the thesis there maintained that a usurpation occurred in 1776, when the colonies, set free by the Sover-

eign People in Congress assembled, made themselves into independent states, and that a successful revolution in 1787, under the name of the formation of a Federal Government, put things back just where they were nine years before, and restored the people to sovereignty. This pretty theory, so flattering to the ethical make-up of "the founders," our author attacks with his keen Damascus blade, and speedily finds the joints of its harness. The theory is advanced, in turn, that party exists only for the sake of the nation, and that a party may abuse its trusts and outlive its usefulness. This, again, we fear is not for the general,—for no idea has more forcibly possessed the mind of the average voter than that party is from heaven by birth, with a God-given and therefore eternal right to subordinate everything else to its own glory and to enjoy it forever.

In Mr. Firth's "Our Kin Across the Sea" (Longmans, Green, & Co.), we have a wealthy New Zealander's impressions of America. Mr. Firth, as Mr. Froude takes pains to inform us in his preface to the book, is not a man of letters, nor is he an artist like Macaulay's New Zealand traveller that is to come; he is merely a prosperous merchant who has become a landholder, has developed mines and railroads, and has contributed much to the material well-being and much to the moral improvement of the colony in which he lives. As might be expected, Mr. Firth admires our vast resources, our great rivers and cities, the splendor of our electric lights, the giant fortunes of our wealthy men, the convenience of our elevators, our sleeping-cars, our belt-railroads. He thinks that the massive blocks of lofty buildings in our cities have an air of grandeur about them. As a colonist, he is better able to appreciate our grievances against the British than are the travellers that come to us directly from England. Mr. Firth judges things, as is natural, from a New Zealander's standpoint, and finds our climate, our beef, our knives, our health, and our habits of work, worse than he is used to seeing in his own country, of which he tells us a good deal. He wonders much at the patience that enables Americans to wait so long for their hotel dinners; to cut their tough beef with dull plated knives; to put up with sidewalks covered with obstructions, and full of holes, that endanger the lives of the unwary; to endure the domination of Irish schemers and demagogues and the political corruption that permeates everything; to submit to the exactions of railways, of trusts, of strikes, and "combines." He finds fault with our overwork, with our lack of out-door amusements, with our desecration of Sunday, with our laxity in the enforcement of law, with our "newspaper despotism," and with our worship of the dollar. In short, he is a candid and sensible man, who, without affecting originality, sees things pretty nearly as they are, reflects upon them, and tells us frankly and concisely what he sees and what he thinks.

PROF. THOROLD ROGERS needs no introduction, as one who is able to make even statistics interesting, to those who have read his great works on "Agriculture and Prices," "Work and Wages," and "The Economic Interpretation of History." When he comes, therefore, to so entertaining a subject as "The Story of Holland," we expect a valuable book; and we are not disappointed. Such a

brief sketch has been needed, and Netherlandish history furnishes a fruitful theme for a writer who looks always beneath the surface at the economic and social activities of a land. The growth to independence, from the rise of the chartered towns, through the stormy days of Burgundian rule and the lurid scenes produced by "butchers" and "Blood councils," to the great deeds of the liberation, is well narrated. The subject of Dutch enterprise, in exploration and colonization and financing, occupies several chapters; and the history of the United Netherlands to the creation of the monarchy is traced in a style that is always in accordance with the interesting subject matter. What we looked for and what we miss is a presentation of the Constitution of the Republic. One page is given to this important topic, which should have had a chapter. No portion of the deeds of the Hollanders is of more interest and importance to American students than their attempt to build a Federal Republic upon the bases of the most democratic provincial state-sovereignty and the most aristocratic commercial centralization.

ANOTHER excellent sketch in the "Nations" series (Putnam) is "The Story of Mediæval France," by Gustave Masson of Harrow School. The author's little French Dictionary has long since made him a multitude of friends, and his past work in *belles lettres* leads him in the present volume to allow "a large share to what may be called the intellectual side of the subject, more especially to the formation and progress of national literature." The author limits his subject of Mediæval France to the years from the reign of Hugues Capet to the death of Louis the Twelfth. If one pays attention mainly to dynastic change, Hugues Capet may be said to begin the Middle Period; but if one reads the story of a nation "not alone in its political annals, but in its social life, in the development of commerce, industry, literature, and the fine arts," the story of Mediæval France—or, as Martin puts it, *France Feodale*—more truly begins with the edicts of Mer-sen and Kiersy, in 847 and 877, which, in the words of the author, affected, the one the question of social security, the other the status of property. Here were the formal beginnings of that combined system of commendation and benefice which ripened into feudalism, and upon which the throne of Capet rested. No middle-age history is more fascinating than that of feudal France; and Mr. Masson has met his subject with a true appreciation. Whilst the romantic features of that life are displayed in a vigorous narrative of the doings of court and camp, more serious topics—as the communal movement, scholasticism, financial reforms, the *Parlement* of Paris, literature, science, art,—receive adequate treatment. We should have been glad to hear more about the States General, which do not even have a mention in the index; while the famous and fundamental States General of 1302 figures merely with reference to the persecution of the Templars. Again, as in the case of Prof. Rogers's book, the important feature of constitutional growths has been dealt with too meagrely.

THE settlement of our Western lands has attracted much attention of late from those who love the heroic, and three recent books deal with the region of the great Ohio Valley. James R. Gilmore is already favorably known through his "John

Sevier"; and now, in "The Advance Guard of Western Civilization" (Appleton), he rescues another pioneer worthy from oblivion. For fifteen years—from 1779 to 1794—he leads us in the steps of James Robertson and his comrades who founded and made good that "Cumberland Settlement" which grew into the State of Tennessee. The narrative needs no rhetorical effort to set forth its thrilling and heroic facts. Mr. Parkman has made a reputation as a great historian by his record of the simple facts for the French vanguard of civilization, and Gilmore is showing that no less important work was done by the later pioneers of English blood. We commend this volume to the youth who enjoy "Nick-of-the-Woods" and "The Last of the Mohicans," with the point in favor of this later narrative that it is true. The intrigues of General Wilkinson with Spain in 1805-6 are well known in connection with Aaron Burr's wider notoriety: his earlier performances in the same treasonable direction are not so widely known, and are here discussed at length, as they were of sufficient importance, our author thinks, to entail "upon the entire West long-continued suffering, and upon the devoted colony along the Cumberland ten years of most savage warfare."

ANOTHER pioneer sketch is the "Indiana" of Mr. J. P. Dunn, Jr., in the "American Commonwealths" series (Houghton). The book has no more claim to a place in this series than the one just reviewed, for it is merely a history of Indiana Territory, the narrative ending at the year 1820. The first third of the book is given to the French rule, which is described at too great length. A valuable chapter is devoted to the career of George Rogers Clark—that "Hannibal of the West," as Mr. Dunn calls him—whose biography has been strangely omitted from the "American Cyclopædia." The explanatory title of the book—"A Redemption from Slavery"—indicates its purpose to sketch the struggle which slavery for thirty years made for existence on the soil of the Northwest Territory, in spite of the Ordinance of 1787. The author dwells upon the curious yet probable motive for the unanimity which produced that ordinance in committee. Grayson, a member of the committee, said: "The clause respecting slavery was agreed to by the Southern members, for the purpose of preventing tobacco and indigo from being made on the northwest side of the Ohio, as well as for several other political reasons." Tobacco and indigo culture was thought to necessitate slave labor, and slave labor would invite those crops northward and ruin the monopoly. Mr. Dunn is to be thanked for calling attention so fully to this struggle for the Northwest, which has a place in our history alongside of the "Struggle for Kansas;" for it will surprise many to learn that whilst the Ordinance of 1787 forbade slavery, and "while there was a conflict of opinion among the judges, after the Ordinance had become a thing of the past," as to whether negroes born into bondage in the territory were legally slaves, "there was never any such conflict in the executive and legislative constructions of the Ordinance while it was in force." Not until Indiana became a State was it decided finally that slavery could not exist on her soil.

A LATER volume of the "Commonwealths" series is "Ohio; First Fruits of the Ordinance of 1787,"

by Rufus King. Here again disproportionate space has been given to the earlier periods, one-fourth of the volume lingering over the French days and two-thirds over the territorial history. One of the most serious faults of Americans in writing their own history has always been that they have magnified the importance of the earlier events out of all proportion, and have laid out their histories on such a scale as, if continued into recent times, would make it impossible for them even to keep abreast of current events. The result has been that our truly national history has been neglected through sheer exhaustion. Bancroft reaches only the year one of the Federal Government in 3200 pages; and Hildreth the Missouri Compromise in 3800. Only just now are McMaster and Schouler taking up our history as a great nation. It seems especially a pity, in this very valuable series on our Commonwealths, that some graphic writer, like Lucien Carr, could not have covered the earlier portion of our history once for all in its main features; inasmuch as it is common ground in many respects. As a detailed narrative of Ohio's pioneer days, and a briefer sketch of her general progress in later years, this volume is acceptable; but we have a wish to see more of a century's growth brought to view. The great State of Ohio has had a large place in the counsels of the Union, in shaping its policy, in developing its sentiments as well as its industries. Yet her record on slavery before the Civil War is here dismissed in less than two pages; and we cannot find even mention of "the Cuyahoga District," or of Joshua Giddings.

In the brief list of women of genius stands, if not the first, yet among the first three or four, the name of Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Why is it, then, that in Messrs. Roberts Brothers' series of "Famous Women" this great name stands nineteenth? Probably because in her case there is so little to know besides the name. Strange as it may seem, though Mrs. Browning died in 1861, the story of her life cannot yet be told with any approach to completeness; and so long as Mr. Browning lives, it is likely that the seal of silence placed upon her correspondence, and thus upon her memory, will never be broken. Mr. Ingram, the author of the present biography, has very little to add to what was already known. Although he impugns the accuracy of biographical statements previously made, and even disagrees with Mr. Browning touching the place and date of Mrs. Browning's birth, he appears to have no information to offer us that was not already accessible in some other form. Thus the "initial biography of Elizabeth Barrett Browning" is largely a compilation. It deals mostly with her poems and her reading, and gives an occasional letter from Horne's collection. It was not until she was nearly forty years of age that Elizabeth Barrett exchanged an exclusive devotion to her "papa" and her dog Flush for a more womanly devotion to her husband and her child. During her married life, her health, always infirm, kept her most of the time in Italy. Here the Brownings, as their fame increased, were visited by many literary people, whose accounts of the family occupy a large portion of the latter half of the present volume. When more material is accessible, a more complete biography may be written. Till then, Mr. Ingram's book will serve as a useful summary of what is already known.

Mr. W. S. WALSH has gathered up, under the odd but apt title, "Paradoxes of a Philistine" (Lippincott), seventeen short, crisp, well-written papers that originally appeared in the magazines. "They are here collected," says Mr. Walsh in the prefatory remarks entitled "By Way of Warning," "because the author likes them, and wants them in some form convenient for re-reading;" and we feel sure that many others will like them as candidly and find them as worthy of re-perusal. While the author freely uses old materials and often restates old thoughts, he treats them in a manner so wholly his own that his ingenious plea for plagiarism is needless as an apology for his own methods. Mr. Walsh seems to say to himself what Mr. Lowell once said when he wrote those lines "For an Autograph":

"Though old the thought and oft exprest,
'Tis his at last who says it best,—
I'll try my fortune with the rest."

And the result shows that it was well worth while for Mr. Walsh to make the trial. Much of his book treats of our mistakes,—*"The Mistakes of the Judicious," "The Mistakes of the Critics," "The Mistakes of the Novelists," "The Mistakes we all Make,"*—and the author's genial corrections all point us to a broader charity, a more comprehensive sympathy, a better grasp of things as they really are. Among other topics, this "Philistine" treats of *"The Sense of Pre-existence," "Of Modern Fiction," "Realist and Idealist," "The Genesis of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "Poet and Humorist," "Poet and Philistine,"* and of the questions *"Is Poetry Declining?"* and *"Who was Mother Goose?"*

"ASTRONOMY with an Opera Glass" (Appleton) is the republication in book-form of a series of articles by Garrett P. Serviss, that first appeared in "The Popular Science Monthly" for 1887-'8. Bound together in their present neat and handy form, these articles furnish the star-gazer with a very serviceable guide-book to the heavens. The book is beautifully printed in large type, and contains many maps of the constellations, the moon, etc., represented in white upon a black ground. The four circular maps representing the appearance of the sky in the evening hours of spring, summer, autumn, and winter, respectively, will probably be oftenest referred to. They are made as large as the page will permit, but would be more useful if made still larger, say as large as could be placed upon a double-page sheet. The text is well calculated to arouse an interest in the geography of the heavens. Mr. Serviss shows that no profound knowledge of mathematics is essential to derive enjoyment and profit from the study of the evening sky,—a study more enticing now than when the shepherds and the magi of old used nightly to con the stars, because so many interesting discoveries have been made by astronomers, and because, as our author points out, an opera-glass of an inch and a half aperture reveals ten times as many stars as can be seen by the naked eye.

AMONG the books that gather up for the benefit of young readers, and narrate in simple language, the more interesting and surprising facts discovered by recent science, hardly one deserves more unstinted praise than Sophie Herrick's "The Earth in Past Ages" (Harper). The statements are so careful and so clearly made as not to mislead even the

unwary. The pictures, which form a prominent feature, are taken from the best works. The sketch of the *archæopteryx*, for example, is the restoration by R. W. Shufeldt, instead of the cut ordinarily seen in our text-books, and contains nothing of which we have not actual evidence. The account of the cedar logs obtained by mining in New Jersey shows that the author is abreast of the times, and that she keeps up with the articles in the scientific periodicals. Her remarks touching the unsettled explanation of coral reefs and coral islands evince the modesty and reserve of the true scientific spirit. Teachers of physical geography or of the elements of geology will find this a stimulating book to put into the hands of their pupils. No one, young or old, who desires a simple statement of some of the ascertained facts of geology and paleontology can do better than to inquire within the lids of this dainty little volume.

LITERARY NOTES AND NEWS.

AN important work by Alfred Binet, the eminent French scientist, is announced for early publication by the Open Court Publishing Co., of Chicago. The title is "The Psychic Life of Micro-Organisms." The author has furnished a preface especially for the American edition.

AN "Introduction to the Poetry of Robert Browning," by Prof. William J. Alexander, will be published this month by Ginn & Co. Among the subjects discussed in the work are "Browning's Philosophy," "Christianity as Presented in Browning's Works," and "Browning's Theory of Art."

A NEW work on Russia, by Mr. W. T. Stead, editor of the "Pall Mall Gazette," is announced by Cassell & Co. The volume is the result of Mr. Stead's recent travels in Russia, and will be a large and no doubt an interesting one. Its title is "The Truth about Russia."

SHAKESPEARIANA, the monthly magazine of Shakespearian criticism, which has just reached its sixth volume, will hereafter be conducted under the auspices of the New York Shakespeare Society, and published by the Leonard Scott Publication Co., of New York City.

AN important economic work, "Profit Sharing between Employer and Employee: a Study in the Evolution of the Wages System," by Nicholas P. Gilman, will appear about March 1, from the press of Houghton, Mifflin & Co. The same firm will issue shortly Miss Blanche Willis Howard's new story, "The Open Door."

A NUMBER of the later scientific and philosophical essays of Dr. W. B. Carpenter, collected since his death, will be published immediately by D. Appleton & Co., with the title, "Nature and Man." The same publishers have nearly ready a new novel by Mrs. Rossiter Johnson, "Raleigh Westgate, or Epimenides in Maine."

AMONG the forthcoming publications of Longmans, Green, & Co. are "Letters on Literature," by Andrew Lang; "Masks or Faces? A Study in the Psychology of Acting," by William Archer; "Colloquies on Preaching," by the Rev. H. Twells; "Conversations with the Duke of Wellington," by the late Lord Stanhope; "Social Progress," by Daniel G. Thompson.

MAX O'RELL's just-issued book on the United States, called "Jonathan and His Continent," is

published simultaneously in Paris, London, and New York. Messrs. Cassell & Co. are authority for the statement that they have paid the author, M. Blouet, "the largest lump sum that has ever been paid a foreign author for the right of publication in this country."

NEXT April is the Centennial Anniversary of the inauguration of Washington as President of the United States. The occasion is to be celebrated in New York City with elaborate and appropriate exercises, in which the President of the United States and his Cabinet are expected to participate. The day of the celebration, April 30, has been made a legal holiday by the Legislature of New York, and the occasion will doubtless be a memorable one.

MR. CHAS. A. B. SHEPARD, of the well-known Boston publishing house of Lee & Shepard, who died on the 26th of January, was one of the oldest and most popular members of the American book trade. While still a young man, he was the senior member of the firm of Shepard, Clark & Brown; and after its dissolution, in 1859, he formed the partnership with Mr. Lee, which continued until Mr. Shepard's death. He was about sixty years of age.

THE measure for International Copyright known as the Chace-Breckenridge Copyright bill is expected to be put to vote in the House of Representatives at an early date. This bill passed the Senate last May, by a vote of 34 to 10; and while not likely to receive any such majority in the House, is yet reasonably certain to become a law. It is a compromise measure, far from perfect, but is strongly urged by authors, who are the ones chiefly interested, and hence its passage is to be hoped for.

TWO magazines devoted to the general interests of Poetry begin their career with the year 1889. "Poet-Lore," published in Philadelphia, has an almost suspicious flavor of Browning societies about it, which is, however, redeemed by some excellent departments, one of which is to be conducted by Dr. W. J. Rolfe. "The Magazine of Poetry" is published in Buffalo, by C. W. Moulton & Co., and gives promise of becoming a useful and an attractive publication.

MR. CHARLES F. HOLDER, the well-known writer on popular science, has prepared a volume on Pasadena and Southern California, which will soon be published by Lee & Shepard. They also have in preparation "Incidents of a Collector's Rambles in Australia, New Zealand, and New Guinea," by Sherman F. Denton, Artist to the United States Fish Commission, Washington, D. C., with illustrations by the author; "Delsarte and His Method," by Anna Morgan; George Riddle's "Readings," a volume of selections; and "The Julia Ward Howe Birthday Book," arranged by Laura E. Richards.

MESSRS. RAPHAEL TUCK & SONS, the well-known art publishers, of London and New York, have issued a very elaborate Circular of their Art Students' and Amateurs' Competitive Prize Exhibition, to be held in January 1890, at the Galleries of the Royal Institute, London, and for which prizes amounting to five hundred guineas, and one hundred diplomas, will be awarded. The judges are Sir John Everett Millais, Bart., R.A., Marcus Stone, R.A., G. H. Boughton, A.R.A., and Solomon J. Solomon, Esq. All copies from the United States or Canada will be forwarded from New York City to London, and returned after the Exhibition, free

of cost to the competitors. Copies of the Exhibition Circular, giving full particulars, may be had by addressing Messrs. Raphael Tuck & Sons, 298 Broadway, New York City.

THE first volumes of the new edition of the "Writings of Washington" will be issued shortly by G. P. Putnam's Sons. They also announce: "English Wayfaring Life in the Middle Ages," from the French of J. J. Jusserand, editor of the series of "Great French Writers"; a "Manual of Oriental Antiquities," including the Architecture, Sculpture, and Industrial Arts of Chaldea, Assyria, Persia, Judea, Phœnicia, and Carthage, by Ernest Babelon, Librarian of the Department of Medals and Antiquities in the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris, translated and enlarged by B. T. A. Evetts, M.A., of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities of the British Museum; and "From Japan to Granada: Sketches of Observation and Enquiry in a Tour round the World in 1887-8," by James Henry Chapin, D.D.

REV. DR. GEORGE C. NOYES, who died at Evanston, Ill., January 14, was known to readers of THE DIAL as a frequent contributor, he having been connected with this journal for six or eight years past. He was especially apt in reviewing books of travel—a department of literature of which he was extremely fond, and in which he was peculiarly at home. He was himself a "born traveller," and, what is doubtless much rarer, one to whom the charms of his own country appealed not in vain. He was tolerably familiar, he said, with every state and territory in the Union, except Alaska, and with Canada and Mexico. Alaska he expected soon to visit, and also Central America; then he thought he would be prepared to begin the exploration of the Old World. Dr. Noyes had been for twenty years pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Evanston—one of the largest of Chicago's suburbs,—and while widely known and honored in his own denomination, he was also widely known outside of it as a strong and rare man, of catholic sympathies, liberal culture, and varied attainments. He died at the age of fifty-six.

ONE of the most extensive enterprises ever undertaken by an American publishing house will be "The Century Dictionary," the earlier portions of which are expected to be issued by The Century Co. during the coming Spring. When completed—which it is expected will be in two years—the work will be comprised in six quarto volumes, aggregating some 6500 pages. The new dictionary will contain definitions of probably two hundred thousand words, without including any useless compounds. Thousands of quotations will help to illustrate the uses of these words. The work is encyclopædic in the sense that it gives, in addition to definitions and the etymological history of words, a very great amount of detailed information which has hitherto been found only in the encyclopædias. There will be about six thousand cuts in the text, the subjects of which have usually been chosen by the experts in charge of the special departments, and drawn, whenever possible, from the object itself. The editor-in-chief, Professor William Dwight Whitney, of Yale University, has been assisted by nearly fifty experts, college professors and others, each a recognized authority in his own specialty—the design of the dictionary being to make it complete and authoritative in every branch

of literature, science, and the arts. For seven years no fewer than a hundred persons, and sometimes more, have been working upon this dictionary. The work will be published simultaneously in England and America.

ONCE more the secret of what makes a successful or unsuccessful novel has been divulged—this time by Mr. James Payn, himself a writer of novels, and of presumably successful ones, since he has a long list of them published. Locate your story at home, says Mr. Payn. "The placing the scene of a story in a foreign land is always disadvantageous. It may be mere ignorance which causes untravelled readers to prefer stories of their own land, but such is the fact. They feel the same want of reality in stories of foreign countries as in a fairy tale. All editors know this, and look askance at such productions." We advise aspiring novelists not to accept too hastily the infallibility of Mr. Payn's revelation. His statement would seem to be almost exactly *not* "the fact," so far as can be observed in these United States (and Mr. Payn's dictum was written for an American newspaper). Readers, and especially "untravelled readers," rather like stories that take them away from home, and are apt to regard as tame and tedious those that have too pronounced a home flavor. We doubt that "Zury" has found a multitude of admirers in Spring County, Illinois, and that the "mere ignorance" of the untravelled Tennessee mountaineers will lead them to "prefer stories of their own land" written by Miss Murfree. Bret Harte's realistic stories of California life are as odious to his fellow-citizens of the Pacific Coast as they are admired everywhere else, and particularly abroad. On the other hand, the most successful of recent American novels has its scenes located "in a foreign land." To get as far away as possible from home and from humdrum every-day life, may be exactly what many readers most desire. The "want of reality, as in a fairy tale," may be the source of their chief enjoyment in reading a story. We believe the most experienced publishers confess their inability to tell what it is that makes a novel successful; and Mr. Payn has hardly unlocked the puzzle.

TOPICS IN LEADING PERIODICALS.

FEBRUARY, 1889.

Alcoholic Heredity. T. D. Crothers. *Popular Science*.
America, Oriental Account of its Discovery. M. An. *Hist.*
American Intellectual Life. *Andover*.
American Politics, The Spirit of. C. W. Clark. *Atlantic*.
Big-horn, Photographing the. F. H. Chapin. *Scribner*.
Browning's Dramas. C. C. Everett. *Andover*.
Bryce on America. A. C. McLaughlin. *Dial*.
Bulb Gardens In-doors. John Habberton. *Harper*.
Canadian-American Liaison. W. Griffin. *Mag. Am. Hist.*
Capital and Labor. Adam Shortt. *Andover*.
Children, Physical Training of. M. F. Lagrange. *Pop. Sci.*
Children's Voices, Public School Training of. *Harper*.
Competitive Element in Modern Life. *Scribner*.
Dakota. P. F. McClure. *Harper*.
"Demoniacal Possession." A. D. White. *Popular Science*.
"Dogmatic Theology" of Prof. Shedd. *Andover*.
Education, Sacrifice of. Max Müller, and others. *Pop. Sci.*
French Painting, History of. H. N. Powers. *Dial*.
Government Clerk, Experiences of a. *Lippincott*.
Greek Portraits. T. S. Perry. *Scribner*.
Hawthorne, Nathaniel. R. H. Stoddard. *Lippincott*.
Holidays, Origin of. H. Gale. *Popular Science*.
Holland, Picturesqueness of. Geo. Hitchcock. *Scribner*.
Hôtel Drouot, The. Theo. Child. *Harper*.
Humor, A Plea for. Agnes Repplier. *Atlantic*.
Illinois Life in Fiction. *Atlantic*.
Lady Crab, The Dance of the. T. H. Morgan. *Pop. Science*.
Mendelssohn's Letters. *Atlantic*.

Ministers, Salaries of. *Andover.*
 Mound Builders and No. Am. Indians. *Mag. Am. History.*
 Musical Instruments. George P. Upton. *Dial.*
 Nepal, the Land of the Goorkhas. H. Ballantine. *Harper.*
 Norway. Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson. *Harper.*
 People, Real History of the. H. D. Lloyd. *Dial.*
 Railways, Political Control of. A. Morgan. *Popular Science.*
 Reptiles of a Past Age. Otto Meyer. *Popular Science.*
 Rome in the Light of Recent Discoveries. *Atlantic.*
 Ruskin's Work. Chas. Waldstein. *Harper.*
 Russian Village, Sketch of a. V. Verestchagin. *Harper.*
 School, Story of a. James Johannott. *Popular Science.*
 Scott, Walter, at Home. E. H. Woodruff. *Scribner.*
 Slavery in N. Y. and Mass. J. Carrick. *Mag. Am. History.*
 Spiritual Christianity. *Andover.*
 Siallo, John B. *Popular Science.*
 Sunday, Second Service on. A. McKenzie. *Andover.*
 Talking-Machines, The New. P. G. Hubert, Jr. *Atlantic.*
 Underground Waters in Rock Transformations. *Pop. Sci.*
 Variation, Causes of. C. V. Riley. *Popular Science.*
 Vauxhall Gardens. Austin Dobson. *Scribner.*
 Washington, De Vries Portrait of. *Mag. Am. History.*
 Washington as President, 1789-90. Mrs. Lamb. *M. Am. Hist.*
 Weather-Lore. Selma H. Peabody. *Dial.*
 Women, Physical Development of. W. A. Sargent. *Scrib.*
 Yezidees, or Devil-Worshippers. L. E. Browski. *Pop. Sci.*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following list includes all books received by THE DIAL during the month of January, 1889.]

LITERATURE—ESSAYS—SELECTIONS.

A Library of American Literature, from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time. Compiled and Edited by Edmund Clarence Stedman and Ellen Mackay Hutchinson. *Ten Volumes*; Vol. V., Literature of the Republic, Part II.; Vol. VI., Literature of the Republic, Part III. 4to. Gilt top. Chas. L. Webster & Co. Per vol., \$3.00.
Portfolio Papers. By Philip Gilbert Hamerton, editor of "The Portfolio," author of "Etching and Etchers." With Portrait. 12mo, pp. 386. Roberts Bros. \$2.00.
November Boughs. By Walt Whitman. With Portrait. Large 8vo, pp. 140. Gilt top. David McKay. \$1.35.
Across Lots. By Horace Lunt. 12mo, pp. 233. D. Lothrop Co. \$1.35.
Business. By James Platt, F.S.S., author of "Morality." Authorized American Edition. 12mo, pp. 249. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 75 cents.
Asop's Fables, chiefly from Original Sources, by the Rev. Thomas James, M.A. Illustrated by John Tenniel. 24mo, pp. 232. Gilt top. Putnam's Knickerbocker Nuggets. \$1.25.
Plutarch's Lives of Numa, Sertorius, and Eumenes. Translated by J. and W. Langhorne. With the Life of Plutarch by John Dryden. 24mo, pp. 192. Paper. Cassell's National Library. 10 cents.

ECONOMICS—LAW—CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

Capital: A Critical Analysis of Capitalistic Production. By Karl Marx. Translated from the Third German Edition. 8vo, pp. 816. D. Appleton & Co. \$3.00.
International Law. A Series of Lectures delivered before the University of Cambridge, 1887. By Henry Sumner Maine, K.C.S.I. 8vo, pp. 234. Henry Holt & Co. \$2.75.
The Establishment of Municipal Government in San Francisco. By Bernard Moses, Ph.D. 8vo, pp. 83. Paper. Johns Hopkins University Studies. Baltimore: Publication Agency of Johns Hopkins University. 30 cents.

HISTORY—BIOGRAPHY—TRAVEL.

The Story of Louisiana. By Maurice Thompson. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 337. *Story of the States*. D. Lothrop Co. \$1.50.
Life of Viscount Bolingbroke. By Arthur Hassall, M.A. 2mo, pp. 237. *International Statesmen*. J. B. Lippincott Co. 75 cents.
Thomas Jefferson and the University of Virginia. By Herbert B. Adams, Ph.D. With authorized Sketches of Hampden-Sidney, Randolph-Macon, Emory-Henry, Roanoke, and Richmond Colleges, etc. Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 308. Paper. Washington: Government Printing Office.
Truth About Russia. By W. T. Stead. 8vo. Cassell & Co. \$2.50.
Jonathan and His Continent. (Rambles through American Society.) By Max O'Rell, author of "John Bull and His Island," and Jack Allyn. Translated by Madame Paul Blouet. 12mo, pp. 313. Cassell & Co. \$1.50.
The Florida of To-Day. A Guide for Tourists and Settlers. By James Wood Davidson, A.M., author of "The Living Writers of the South." Illustrated. 16mo, pp. 234. D. Appleton & Co. \$1.25.
Foot-Prints of Travel; or, Journeys in Many Lands. By Maturin M. Ballou. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 360. Ginn & Co. \$1.10.

BIBLE STUDIES—RELIGIOUS.

The Bible View of the Jewish Church, in Thirteen Lectures delivered during January-April, 1888, in the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church, N. Y. By Howard Crosby. 12mo, pp. 211. Funk & Wagnalls. \$1.00.
Sunday-School Stories on the Golden Texts of the International Lessons of 1889. By Edward E. Hale, author of "In His Name." 16mo, pp. 314. Roberts Bros. \$1.00.
Holy Living. By Jeremy Taylor, D.D. Vol. I. 24mo, pp. 192. Paper. Cassell's National Library. 10 cents.

POETRY—THE DRAMA.

Reading of Earth. By George Meredith. 16mo, pp. 136. Gilt top. Macmillan & Co. \$1.50.
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Virgil's Æneid. The First Six Books. Translated into English Rhyme by Henry Hamilton. 12mo, pp. 197. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
Among the Mallet, and Other Poems. By Archibald Lampman. 8vo, pp. 151. Ottawa: J. Durie & Son.
Laudes Domini. A Selection of Spiritual Songs, Ancient and Modern, for the Sunday-School. Edited by Charles Seymour Robinson. Oblong 16mo. The Century Co. 35 cents.
Cymbeline. By William Shakespeare. 24mo, pp. 192. Paper. Cassell's National Library. 10 cents.

FICTION.

Cressy. By Bret Harte. 16mo, pp. 290. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.
A Shocking Example, and Other Sketches. By Frances Courtenay Baylor, author of "On Both Sides." With Portrait. 12mo, pp. 364. J. B. Lippincott Co. \$1.25.
A Stiff-Necked Generation. By L. B. Walford, author of "Mr. Smith." 16mo, pp. 468. *Holt's Leisure Hour Series*. \$1.00.
The Story of Reimach. By Arthur Helps, author of "Casimir Maremma." 16mo, pp. 266. Roberts Bros. 75 cents.
Commodore Junk. By G. Manville Fenn, author of "The Parson o' Dumford." 2mo. Paper. Cassell's Sunshine Series. 50 cents.
The Apostate. A Novel. By Ernest Daudot. Translated from the French by Elizabeth Phelps Train. 12mo, pp. 237. Paper. Appleton's Town and Country Library. 50 cents.
For Faith and Freedom. A Novel. By Walter Besant, author of "Dorothy Forster." Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 383. Paper. Harper's Franklin Square Library. 50 cents.
When a Man's Single. A Tale of Literary Life. By J. M. Barrie. 8vo, pp. 234. Paper. Harper's Franklin Square Library. 35 cents.
The Peril of Richard Fardon. A Novel. By B. L. Farjeon, author of "Great Porter Square." Illustrated. 8vo, pp. 190. Paper. Harper's Franklin Square Library. 30 cents.
The Amber Witch. Translated from the German by Lady Duff Gordon. 24mo, pp. 192. Paper. Cassell's National Library. 10 cents.

EDUCATION—TEXT-BOOKS.

Systems of Education. A History and Criticism of the Principles, Methods, Organization, and Moral Discipline advocated by Eminent Educationists. By John Gill. 12mo, pp. 312. D. C. Heath & Co. \$1.10.
Industrial Education in the South. By Rev. A. D. Mayo. 8vo, pp. 86. Paper. Washington: Government Printing Office.
Voices of Children. Principles and Discipline through which they may be Made Efficient in Speaking and Singing. By W. H. Leib. 12mo, pp. 60. Ginn & Co. 45 cents.
Lessing's Ausgewählte Prosa und Briefe. Edited, with Notes, by Horatio Stevens White. 18mo, pp. 236. *German Classics for American Students*. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.00.
One Thousand Composition Subjects. For the Use of Teachers and Pupils. Compiled by Miss E. S. Kirkland, author of "Short History of France." 16mo, pp. 62. Paper. Chicago: Fergus Printing Co. 15 cents.
A Text-Book of General Astronomy for Colleges and Scientific Schools. By Charles A. Young, Ph.D., LL.D. Large 8vo, pp. 351. Ginn & Co. \$2.50.
Elements of the Integral Calculus. With a Key to the Solution of Differential Equations, and a Short Table of Integrals. By William Elwood Byerly, Ph.D. Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged. 8vo, pp. 370. Ginn & Co. \$2.15.
Elements of Plane Analytic Geometry. By John D. Runkle. 8vo, pp. 344. Ginn & Co. \$2.00.
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MISCELLANEOUS.

The Self: What Is It? By J. S. Malone. 12mo, pp. 158. Louisville: John P. Morton & Co. 75 cents.

Festa: A Book for Boys. By Paolo Mantegazza. Translated from the Italian of the Tenth Edition by the Italian Class in Bangor, Maine, under the supervision of Luigi D. Ventura. 16mo, pp. 256. D. C. Heath & Co. \$1.35.

Bell-Hangers' Hand-Book. By F. B. Badt, author of "Dynamo Tenders' Hand-Book." Illustrated. 24mo, pp. 103. Chicago: Electrician Pub'g Co. \$1.00.

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